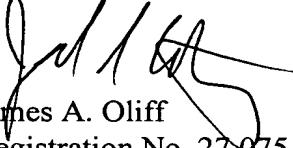


REMARKS

Claims 1-50 are pending. By this Preliminary Amendment, claim 6 is amended to eliminate multiple dependencies. Prompt and favorable examination on the merits is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,


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Date: December 28, 2000

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